



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND ISSUE FEE DUE

IM51/0930

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JUL 1 - 2002

TC 1700

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	TOTAL CLAIMS	EXAMINER AND GROUP ART UNIT	DATE MAILED
08/852,663	05/07/97	012	WONG, M	1754 09/30/98
First Named Applicant	GREER, GRAY D.			

TITLE OF INVENTION SEWAGE SLUDGE RECYCLING WITH A PIPE CROSS-REACTOR

ATTY'S DOCKET NO.	CLASS-SUBCLASS	BATCH NO.	APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	FEE DUE	DATE DUE
1 375115	071-011.000	120	UTILITY	YES	\$660.00	12/30/98

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.

THE ISSUE FEE MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.

HOW TO RESPOND TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

- A. If the status is changed, pay twice the amount of the FEE DUE shown above and notify the Patent and Trademark Office of the change in status, or
- B. If the status is the same, pay the FEE DUE shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

- A. Pay FEE DUE shown above, or
- B. File verified statement of Small Entity Status before, or with, payment of 1/2 the FEE DUE shown above.

II. Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned to the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) with your ISSUE FEE. Even if the ISSUE FEE has already been paid by charge to deposit account, Part B Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the ISSUE FEE to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.

III. All communications regarding this application must give application number and batch number.

Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Box ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

YOUR COPY

Notice of Allowability



Application No.

08/852,663

Applicant(s)

Greer et al.

Examiner

Melanie Wong

Group Art Unit

1754



All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course.

☒ This communication is responsive to 9/16/98

☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-11 and 15

☐ The drawings filed on _____ are acceptable.

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE to comply with the requirements noted below is set to EXPIRE **THREE MONTHS** FROM THE "DATE MAILED" of this Office action. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

☐ Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPLICATION, PTO-152, which discloses that the oath or declaration is deficient. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION IS REQUIRED.

☒ Applicant MUST submit NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS

☐ because the originally filed drawings were declared by applicant to be informal.

☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948, attached hereto or to Paper No. 3

☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed on _____, which has been approved by the examiner.

☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment/Comment.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the reverse side of the drawings. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

☐ Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Any response to this letter should include, in the upper right hand corner, the APPLICATION NUMBER (SERIES CODE/SERIAL NUMBER). If applicant has received a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due, the ISSUE BATCH NUMBER and DATE of the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE should also be included.

Attachment(s)

☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s) _____

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

☒ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

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DETAILED ACTION

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. In accordance with a personal conversation on September 16, 1998 and a telephone conversation on September 28, 1998 with Mr. Turner for the applicant, the following changes were agreed upon to place the case in condition for allowance:

A. Claims 12-14 and 16-18 have been canceled without prejudice.

B. In Claim 15 line 1, the phrase, "A process" has been deleted and --The process of claim 5, further comprising the step-- has been substituted therefor.

B. In Claim 15 line 3, the phrase "the low pH of a venturi scrubber used in a process according to claim 5" has been changed to --a pH of 2 to 3 in said venturi scrubber-- has been substituted therefor.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Mr. Turner argued during the personal interview of September 16, 1998 that there would be no motivation from the Pipe-Cross Reactor (PCR) Technical Update Article to use a PCR to

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treat the low analysis organic waste material of Wilson (U.S. Patent, 3,050,383), and pointed out that in the past, the PCR had only been used to treat substantially pure materials, such as the ammoniation of acids. This argument is borne out by said Article which discloses that, "this led to the development of the PCR wherein two acids are ammoniated simultaneously". The examiners agreed with Mr. Turner that it would not be obvious from said Article to use a PCR to treat the low analysis organic waste of Wilson, since there would be no motivation to do so. In this regard, the fact that two references can be combined does not necessarily mean that it would have been obvious to do so.

Mr. Turner also argued at the personal interview of September 16, 1998 that the term "relatively low analysis organic waste material" is an art-recognized term, referring to said Wilson patent. The examiners agreed that such term is reasonably definite, which is all that is required by the second paragraph of 35 USC 112. Accordingly, the objection of said term as being indefinite is withdrawn.

Support for changing "low pH" to --pH of 2 to 3-- is found on page 8, line 25 of the original specification.

Any comments considered necessary by applicants must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Melanie Wong whose telephone number is (703) 305-3922. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 6:30am to 4:00pm.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

MCW
September 24, 1998

**WAYNE LANGE
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 110**